

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01138 231728Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /079 W  
-----020154 232335Z /21

R 231426Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7559  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION NATO  
COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1138

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IC, UR, CZ  
SUBJECT: ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION PORTESTS 1968 INVASION OF  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. SUMMARY: FAIR TURNOUT AT PROTEST SPONSORED BY OPPONENTS OF  
NATO BASE IN ICELAND IN FRONT OF SOVIET EMBASSY AUGUST 21  
DEMONSTRATED AGAINST INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON NINTH  
ANNIVERSARY. THOUGH PRINCIPAL THRUST OF GATHERING WAS AGAINST  
WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ORGANIZERS MANAGED TO GET  
IN PLUG FOR THEIR PRIME OBJECTIVES: MILITARY  
OUT OF ICELAND AND ICELAND OUT OF NATO. PROTEST APPEARED  
TO BE THINLY-DISGUISED ATTEMPT TO ATTRACT ADDITIONAL FOLLOWING  
BY SHOWING THAT GROUP IS NOT SINGLE-ISSUE ORIENTED OR LEFTIST  
CONTROLLED. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROXIMATELY 175-200 PEOPLE SHOWED UP IN FRONT OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01138 231728Z

SOVIET EMBASSY AUGUST 21, ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IN DEMONSTRATION LED BY ORGANIZATION  
OF MILITARY STATION OPPONENTS. VENT WAS ADVERTISEC  
IN THJODVILJINN, DAILY ORGAN OF EXTREME LEFT-WING  
PEOPLES' ALLIANCE, AND WALL POSTERS AND CARRIED AS  
NEWS ITEM IN OTHER PAPER . THREE THEMES OF BANNERS  
AND LITERATURE WERE: WE SUPPORT FREEDOM FIGHT IN

CZECHOSLOVAKIA; OUT WITH WARSAL PACT FORCES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA; AND DOWN WITH MILITARY ALLIANCES - ICELAND OUT OF NATO, SOLDIERS OUT OF ICELAND.

3. ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF CROWD WAS BELOW VOTING AGE WITH BULK OF SPCTATORS IN TWENTIES OR THIRTIES. ABOUT TWO DOZEN ACTIVISTS COULD BE IDENTIFIED BY ANTI-NATO BADGES. REMAINDER OF PARTICIPANTS APPEARED TO BE MIX OF LEFTISTS, ANTI-SOVIETS, AND INDIFFERENT PASSERS-BY. RESPONSE OF CROWD TO SPEECHES WAS POLITE BUT UNENTHUSIASTICGM

4. TWO SPEECHES WERE MADE BOTH OF WHICH DEALT PRINCIPALLY WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, RECALLING DUBCEK DAYS AND QUOTE HUMANISTIC UNQTE SOCIALISM WHICH SOVIETS

CRUSHED. CONTINUED PRESENCE OF WARSAW PACT FORCES IN COUNTRY ALSO CONDEMNED. FIRST SPEAKR USED THIS AS LEAD-IN TO CRITICIZE NATO AND PRESENCE OF US TROOPS AT IDF OASE. SECOND SPAKER MADE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO BASE, CALLING FOR END TO ALL MILITARY AL-

LIANCES. WHEN NO ONE RESPONDED TO DOORBELL AT SOVIET EMBASSY, DEMONSTRATION LEADER PROMISED TO PUT PROTEST NOTE IN MAIL.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 01138 231728Z

5. UNOBTRUSIVE POLICE PRESENCE WAS ADEQUATE FOR SIZE OF CROWD THOUGH UNNECESSARY FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN REDIRECTING TRAFFIC. AFTER FORTY MINUTES, RALLY ENDED. PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENT WAS MINIMAL AND ATTENDANCE FIGURES VARIED WIDELY DEPENDING ON POLITICAL POSITION OF NEWSPAPER.

6. COMMENT: SINCE ORGANIZERS OF DEMONSTRATION MISSED FIRST EIGHT ANNIVERSARIES OF PRAGUE, QUESTION ARISESAS TO WHAT BROUGHT THEM TO THE STREET THIS YEAR. ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY STATIONOPPONENTS HAS HITHERTO FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON IDF BASE AND CAMPAIGN TO GET ICELAND OUT OF NATO. EMBASSY'S GUESS IS THAT GROUP IS TRYING TO PUT OLD WINE - OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ICELAND - INTO NEW BOTTLES. ANTI-IDF PROTEST MARCH EARLIER IN HEAR (REYKJAVIK 0724 NOTAL) HAD DISAPPOINTING TURNOUT FOR ORGANIZERS, EVEN AFTER BEING BILLED AS QUOTE FAMILY OUTING UNQUOTE. LATEST RALLY APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO WIDEN SUPPORT BASE THIS TIME BY SHOWING THAT

GROUP IS NOT ANTI-US OR LEFTIST IN ORIENTATION BUT  
ANTI-MILITARY AND QUOTE DEMOCRATIC UNQUOTE. IN GENERAL.

7. CURIOUSLY, DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS DID NOT TAKE  
NOTE OF RELATIVELY FRESH PIECE OF GRAFITTO AROUND  
CORNER FROM SOVIET EMBASSY READING QUOTE ICELAND IN  
NATO UNQUOTE.  
BLAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INTERVENTION, INVASIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977REYKJA01138  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770304-1166  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770833/aaaabbtl.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** eccede55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1515980  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION PORTESTS 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PGOV, IC, UR, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/eccede55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009